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LIHUE, KAUAI, TERRITORY OF HAWAII, TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1918

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KAUAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLD HOLD SNAPPY MEETING AND TAKE UP HOMESTEADERS PROBLEMS

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held August 15th at the Lihue County Building, the meeting being called to order by the president a little after 3 o'clock. The minutes of the last meeting, as well as those of April 4th were read and approved.

Under the head of old business, Mr. Brandt reported that the Punu Ba Pele road had been put into good shape by the County so that there is now no difficulty in making the trip to that section by auto, even as far as Halemanu and Kokee. He would however advise anyone contemplating the trip to first ascertain in advance the state of the weather, as it would be impossible to make the trip in a rainy time. An enthusiastic vote of thanks was tendered by the Chamber to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. H. D. Wishard tendered the report of the nominating committee for officers for the coming year, as follows:

President.....Th. Brandt
Vice-President.....R. D. Moler
Treasurer.....J. I. Silva
Secretary.....J. M. Lydgate
Auditor.....W. N. Stewart

The report was adopted and the nominees were unanimously elected. Mr. Crawford the retiring President commented briefly on the excellent quality of the work done by the Chamber during the year. In response to the demand of the times, the influence and activities of the Chamber had far outrun the original purposes of the body, and especially along patriotic lines, much good work had been done. In retiring from the position he wished to express his hearty appreciation of the cooperation which he had received from the members, and of the unity and harmony which had been shown by them.

The President-elect Mr. Brandt, then took the chair, and expressed his sense of the honor conferred upon him, and his determination to fulfill the duties of the office to the best of his ability.

Mr. Lydgate in a few fitting words, voiced the appreciation of the Chamber for the excellent work done by Mr. Crawford during the year. He had proved just the man for the place and for the times; prudent, broad minded, efficient, faithful and loyal, the Chamber had every reason to be proud of his leadership, and the speaker called for a rising vote of appreciation for the services of Mr. Crawford in that capacity. This was given with enthusiasm.

The Treasurer proposed the following names for membership:

S. W. Sahr, M. G. Santos, W. H. Beer, H. J. Ebey, J. F. Bettencourt Jr. and E. Livesey, all of which were duly elected. The Treasurer then presented his annual report showing a credit balance of \$304. The report was approved.

Mr. Wishard moved that in view of the comfortable balance in the Treasury, the treasurer be instructed to purchase two War Savings Certificates for the Chamber, which would cost \$166.38.

Mr. E. M. Cheatham then requested the attention of the Chamber to the matter of the proposed new cane growing contracts now being framed by the government, and to be accepted as standard for all the Homesteaders in the future. Taking the Advertiser's report of the proposed contract which he presumed was reliable, it seemed to him an exceedingly unfair and unjust contract that would mean ruin to the whole homestead industry throughout the islands. He then proceeded to point out the defects in convincing detail, the most important of which was the price, viz. one dollar a ton of cane per cent of price of sugar on a basis of 8 tons of cane to one ton of sugar, and a reduction of 10 cents for every ton over 8, required to make the ton of sugar. Only under the most favorable conditions could the high standard be attained, in most places nine, ten or even more tons of cane were required to make a ton of sugar, which would mean a very material reduction of the price. For the Kapaa Homesteads it would mean an 80 cent price, which with present high costs, would mean assured disaster, and that in short order.

Another injustice complained of was the proposition to credit the homesteader for his cane on the basis of the average sugar content of the whole plantation, thus depriving him

of any advantage due to high quality prices consequent of careful cultivation, etc.

Various other less important defects in the proposed contract were pointed out and the speaker emphasized the importance of securing important modifications, since this form of contract would undoubtedly rank as standard and it would be very difficult for any one to secure better terms.

Mr. Crawford called attention to the fact that under this contract at the best, the planter would realize only \$48 from his ton of sugar while the mill would realize \$71, which seems an unfair division considering that the planter must furnish the land, and take care of the crop for upwards of two years, while the mill manufactures it in a few hours, and at very reasonable expense. Even deducting the abnormal cost of marketing, say \$25 per ton, there still remains a balance unduly high to the credit of the mill.

Mr. Brandt thought that the Homesteaders had been remiss in not having made themselves heard in the matter before this. Apparently this form of contract is far along towards final adoption and it may now already be too late to secure any modification. At this late date it is a question what anybody can do, since there does not seem to be time for an investigation, or for any careful consideration of the matter.

Mr. Lydgate considered that this was an exceptionally important matter, not alone nor mainly for the Homesteaders, but for the general public, and for the future welfare of our island. "It may be that the Homesteaders are belated in calling attention to the deficiencies of this contract but at any rate they are ahead of any of the rest of us in the matter," and it is up to us, and to the Chamber to take active and immediate measures in the interest of the public welfare.

"Accordingly Mr. President I move that a committee of five be appointed by the chair, two of whom shall be representative Homesteaders and the remaining three members of this body, to make such an investigation as is possible of the proposed contract and in case it shall seem to be unjust to the homestead interests, that they shall formulate a protest to the Governor using such means and methods as may in their judgement be necessary."

On suggestion of Mr. Cheatham this motion was amended to include a request by wireless to the Governor to grant a hearing and conference in the matter.

Mr. Wishard thought that there would be no difficulty in securing such a hearing, as he inferred from what the Governor said on his recent visit that he was anxious to hear from all interested parties in the matter.

The motion was passed with the hearty approval of the Chamber.

After a few minutes intermission the president appointed this committee as follows:

E. M. Cheatham, F. R. Tracey, Frank Crawford, J. M. Lydgate and Charles H. Wilcox.

Immediately after the close of the meeting the Secretary sent the following wireless to the Governor:

The Kauai Chamber of Commerce requests an opportunity for conference in the matter of Homesteader Sugar Contracts.

Later an answer was received from the Governor, "No objection to such conference."

The total receipts for the "Passing Show" were \$179.10; expenses, including war tax, \$33.85, leaving a balance of \$145.25 which has been turned over to the Mokihana Club for repairing and painting the Lihue Social hall.

Valentine Cobacha was made a citizen of the United States by Judge Dickey this morning. Cobacha left Lihue with the National Guard and has been attending the officers' school at Schofield Barracks. He expects to get a commission now that he is a citizen.

Mrs. R. L. Wilcox, accompanied by Leifani Scott and the Masters Sexton, returned from Honolulu Friday morning.

E. C. Vaughn, of the American Factors, Limited, arrived on Kauai this morning from Honolulu.

ANTHRAX QUARANTINE IS LIFTED BY DR. NORGAARD

Dr. Victor A. Norgaard, Territorial Veterinarian, has just completed an investigation of the anthrax situation on this island and has pronounced it good.

By agreement with the Board of Supervisors of this County the quarantine guards at Kalihi-wai and Hanalei bridge will be discontinued after the 26th of this month and the road will be declared open for public travel.

The quarantine at Kalihi-wai and Kalihi-kai will be removed also as the Doctor thinks that there is little danger of infection from that section now, as the cases that developed there, were undoubtedly caused from the cattle drinking surface water which had come down from the upper pasture land.

Dr. Golding of Hanalei will be in direct charge of all the anthrax situations on this island in the future and will superintend the moving of all live stock from the infected districts.

Dr. Golding is well qualified for this work as he has been working with Dr. Norgaard for some time past, and will be able to hold in check any signs of the dread disease.

C. H. Loomis Leaves for New Position

Kauai will miss her genial secretary of the County Y. M. C. A., Mr. C. H. Loomis, who has returned to Honolulu to accept a position with the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. as their Educational Secretary.

Mr. Loomis will have his headquarters for the next few months at Schofield Barracks, where he will be in direct charge of the work with the newly inducted draftsmen and the National Guard.

The Y. M. C. A. on Kauai has prospered under the careful guidance of Mr. Loomis and although it is left in competent hands, the boys who are members of this organization will miss him greatly.

The people of Eleele and of the entire island of Kauai extend their Aloha to Mr. and Mrs. Loomis and cannot do anything but wish them all the best that there is in their new home to be in Honolulu.

Mrs. Loomis will stop in Honolulu while her husband is going about his duties at Schofield Barracks.

Kawaihau District News

Cyril O. Smith, principal of the Royal School, Honolulu, arrived per last "Kinan" and is the guest of Col. Spalding.

Mrs. Kenneth Lidgate, of Paauilo, Hawaii, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. H. Barclay, returned last Saturday to Honolulu.

The Malice Sugar Company are now operating a fish trap near Anahola, consequently the store is able to supply its customers with fresh fish at reasonable prices, thus conserving its ranch resources.

The notice inserted in the "Garden Island" last week by the Kapaa Homesteaders, warning the stray of cattle upon their lands, has attained very satisfactory results; the owners having rounded up their property and removed the same from the public lands "It pays to advertise".

It is to be regretted that the Homestead Association were not on hand to give Mr. Cheatham support in his appeal before the Chamber of Commerce regarding the new contract. It is the old complaint of non-cooperation, without which it is absolutely impossible to accomplish anything. Not a few of the Chamber who were not impressed with the lack of support by those whose interest were as vital to themselves as to Mr. Cheatham, and expressed their surprise at their attitude in not coming forward and complying with the published request. Doubtless we shall see that those people will the first to register a kick should the mission be unsuccessful.

C. A. Sahr, of the U. S. Agricultural Experiment Station, and a brother of the County Food Agent, arrived by the Kinan this morning.

HARBOR QUESTION AT KAPAA NEARS A SETTLEMENT

If the citizens of the Kapaa homesteads and the neighborhood around Kapaa keep on with their good work they will wake up some fine morning and find an Inter-Island steamer tied up in their own harbor.

While the Governor and the Board of Harbor Commissioners are in favor of a harbor at this place, the Board is not quite sure that it would be advisable at this time for them to spend a great amount of money on the proposed harbor.

They wish, however, to have a public meeting arranged in the very near future, at their offices in Honolulu, so that all interested can gather together and exchange ideas on the subject, and to determine whether or not it would be wise to expend a large sum of money, which will have to be spent, if the proposed harbor is built.

The reason for this public hearing primarily came about through the reports from a number of experienced seamen who have been on the run to this port for a number of years and some of them do not recommend the expenditure of a large sum of money for the improvements as have been recommended and discussed at various times relative to establishing a harbor at Kapaa.

It would be a wise plan for these residents of Kapaa and vicinity, and also all the residents of Kauai, who are interested in this harbor movement, to hold a public meeting and at this meeting appoint a committee to go to Honolulu and be present at this meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, so that they might be able to present their arguments for this harbor to good advantage.

A harbor at Kapaa would be a very good thing for the residents of that neighborhood and the only way in which they can get one is to go after it and keep going till they do get it.

Eleele and Vicinity News

Last Friday the flag flew at half mast all day in Eleele on account of the death of J. S. Prescott, manager of the Honolulu Sales Department of the Standard Oil Company.

Port Allen was a busy place last week with five cargo carriers in and all loading sugar. This port is rapidly becoming the one big loading point of the island.

Miss Hall and Miss Lee who have been spending their vacation at Eleele have returned to their schools, Miss Hall to Honolulu and Miss Lee to Maui.

There was big doings at New Mill, Eleele, last Sunday afternoon. Mr. Fritche the machine shop foreman of the New Mill and Kohala one of the McBryde base ball team boys, ran a foot race for a quarter of a mile. It was a very exciting race and Mr. Fritche nosed out a winner by not more than a foot. Nearly the whole population of that camp turned out to see the race.

Grove Farm Chemist is Called to the Colors

G. R. Haddock, chemist for the Grove Farm Plantation has been called to the colors and left for Honolulu last Saturday night on the Kinan, to take his examinations. Mr. Haddock, if he passes these examinations, and leaves us for good, will be greatly missed from the circles of the young folks as he was a great favorite among this set. There is no doubt but that the Government will find something for him to do in the research department as he is a first class chemist and has had much experience in the world of sugar, although he is only a very young man.

He was connected with some of the larger beet sugar refineries on the mainland before coming to the islands a couple of years ago to join the staff at the Experimental Station in Honolulu. Since that time Mr. Haddock has been on one of the plantations of Hawaii, where he was registered as a draftee, and came from there to the Grove Farm as their chemist, where he has given universal satisfaction and good service.

NAWILIWILI WHARF IS TO BE MADE MUCH BETTER

The following letter was received from the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co. from the Board of Harbor Commissioners in regard to their request that some improvements be made on the wharf at Nawiliwili.

Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co., Honolulu, T. H.
Gentlemen:
Re Proposed Additions to Nawiliwili Wharf.

Your letter of August 10th containing suggestions on the above subject is received.

Please be advised that this matter has been referred to the writer with authority to make a 201ft. shed extension at the makai end of Nawiliwili wharf; to re-arrange the track to suit the convenience of the public and to install the ring as you have suggested on the derrick; all of which will be attended to at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS

By its Chairman
LYMAN H. BIGLOW.

The steamship company in consideration of the fact that the freight business is growing all the time, and also that the passenger business is increasing, and the wharf, which under the present conditions is not adequate for this growing business, suggests improvements be made. The Board after considering the proposals granted the above, as is seen in their letter to the steamship company. These improvements will help a great deal and will eliminate the danger that we now have, of the freight being spoiled by rain.

The freight business has been on the increase for a long time and of late there has been a material increase in the passenger business. The Inter-Island Steamship company has always looked out for the interests of their customers and if the business keeps on increasing they will soon have to put on an extra boat to take care of it. This would be a very welcome addition as Kauai would then get a better mail service and also the passenger end would be better taken care of.

No "Link" in This Maui Grocery Firm

Complaint was made that the Hana Plantation Store, on Maui, was charging excessive profits, viz:—Selling rice so high as \$13.00 per bag which cost them \$8.50 per bag.

An investigation was made which showed a selling price of \$12 per bag on rice that cost \$8.50. The opportunity was given the firm to explain and to justify themselves (if they could) of this charge.

Upon the Hana Store offering to contribute to the American Red Cross any excess profits made and to watch more carefully in future their profits on food products and keep them reasonable no further action was taken by the food administrator.

The investigation showed that excess profits amounting to about \$200 had been made, which amount it was suggested be paid to the Red Cross.

The store referred the matter to their owners, Theo. H. Davies & Co., Ltd., Honolulu, who promptly paid the sum to the Red Cross, stating to Food Administrator Child that the charging of excessive profits was not sanctioned by them, but that the sales were made by employees who were not familiar with the "Reasonable Profit" rules.

PERSONAL AND LOCAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Hon. Francis Gay was among the passengers arriving last Friday morning.

Mrs. Brodie and Miss Hofgaard, of Waimea returned from Honolulu last Friday morning on the Kinan.

Miss Jeanette Mathews, who has been the guest of Mrs. Rae at Eleele returned to her home in Honolulu last Tuesday.

Charles Spillner, the Oahu Plantation Co., Iuna, who said, "I'll never fight for the damned Americans," got eight years in which to think things over.

A just completed survey of the rice crop shows an estimate of almost 6000 bags of cleaned rice to be produced on Kauai this year. The acreage and yield by districts is given below:

	Bags Rice	Bags Clean ed
Waimea	477	35.5
Koloa	19	30.0
Lihue	400	25.0
Kawailoa	217	27.5
Hanalei	1333	20.0
		26.800

This prospective yield is several thousand bags in excess of the 1917 crop. This is not the result of an increased production per acre, but is due to the fact that there are about 550 acres under cultivation for rice this year that were devoted to other crops or were unproductive last year.

Much of this year's crop has already been harvested, but the bulk of the harvest still remains in the fields and much of the rice has only recently been planted. Therefore the estimate has been made as conservative as possible, and if we should have a good rice season, a much larger crop than 6000 bags might be expected.

The increase in acreage over last year's figures would demonstrate that the rice planters are satisfied with the present price of rice as fixed by the Territorial Food Commission.

There is a universal complaint among the rice planters regarding the scarcity of labor and the high rate of wages. The yield of rice could probably be raised about 15 per cent without increasing the present area under cultivation. This increase in production would be brought about by raising two crops per year on all of the rice area instead of raising only one crop per year, as is the case in many places where labor is scarce. However double cropping does not increase the yield as much as might be expected, because land that will produce 20 bags of rice per acre on a one crop basis, will yield two 15 bag crops per year or only 30 bags per year, on a two crop per year basis.

This year only about 50 per cent of the rice acreage on Kauai is being double cropped, largely because of the scarcity of labor and the high rate of wages demanded.

It has been said that in the past much of the Kauai rice had been shipped to Honolulu commission merchants, later to be sent back to Kauai refiners. This had practice will probably be automatically abolished this year due to the 55 cents per bag limit of profit allowed the dealer in rice. Inter-island freight rates will prohibit this practice, making it an unprofitable transaction.

The 6000 bag crop ought to be sufficient to supply everybody on Kauai with two bags of rice for the year, but supposing that the average full grown oriental requires 6 bags per year and allowing that the average Whites, Hawaiians and small Oriental children will not require two bags per year it hardly appears that there will be a great deal of rice to send to Honolulu from Kauai. If much Kauai rice does eventually get to the Honolulu market it will represent an almost equal importation of Japanese rice to Kauai. At times when every bit of cargo space on inter-island boats is in demand for shipping sugar and pines to Honolulu, it is practical to allow Kauai rice to occupy such cargo space if the rice can be consumed locally.

Miss Clara Pearson, a teacher in the McKinley High School, is visiting with Mrs. Rea of Eleele.

Hon. W. H. Rice returned last Friday morning from a short visit to the metropolis.

Alexander Hogg, son of Mrs. J. H. Hogg, of Lihue, departed Saturday for Corvallis, Oregon, where he will attend school.

F. L. Zoller and family of Lawai left for Honolulu last Saturday. Mrs. Zoller and the children will occupy their town house on Kanehameha IV Road and Mr. Zoller will return next Tuesday.